

Approved Minutes of the Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
August 19, 2008

Members present:	Craig Heindel	Spencer Harris
	Gail Center	Bernie Chenette
	Rodney Pingree	Roger Thompson

Others present:	John Beauchamp	Claude Chevalier
	Gary Adams	Scott Stewart
	Anne Whiteley	

Scheduled meetings:

September 16, 2008	1-4 PM	Room 107 Stanley Hall
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Review of minutes

The draft minutes for the July 22, 2008 meeting were revised.

Water Treatment Systems

Roger Thompson started with a review of the progress to date including a meeting on August 12, 2008 with Commissioner Pelosi. As of that meeting the Commissioner is inclined towards:

	Water systems serving only one single family residence	All other non-public water systems
Water softeners	Deregulate	Deregulate
Secondary contaminants	Deregulate	Deregulate
Pathogens	Deregulate	Regulate
Primary contaminants other than coliform	Regulate	Regulate

Anne Whiteley asked if it matters if there is more than one single family residence on a lot as long as each building is served by its own individual system. There was consensus that it should not matter and that as long as the water supply serves only one single family residence installation of water treatment should not be regulated.

Anne then reviewed a possible change in interpretation of the Water Supply Rules. The current interpretation is that if there is more than one source on a property, and the total number users of the two or more sources meet the standards for classification as a public water system, the separate sources will be considered as components of a single water system and therefore be regulated under the Water Supply Rules. This is being reconsidered with a possible new interpretation that unless the sources are physically interconnected through their piping systems each source will be evaluated on its own relative to its status as a public water system. Craig Heindel said he opposes the change if it means that the hydrogeologic connections that exist between multiple sources will be ignored. When someone is operating two or more wells that draw from the same local aquifer, the concerns are the same when someone serves 25 people from one well or serves 25 people from 2 wells that are hydraulically interconnected.

Bernie Chenette noted that the Indirect Discharge Program has circumvention language and maybe something similar could be used in the Water Supply Rules.

Gail Center asked about water treatment systems for primary standards used on water systems serving one single family residence. Anne said that we would come back to this topic.

Anne noted that in the August 12th internal meeting Commissioner Pelosi asked about the issue of who should be approved to design water treatment systems other than Professional Engineers. Anne was charged with looking into the concept of a rule that would require that the person designing water treatment systems be a “Qualified Designer.” There would not be a list of training or experience, just a list of areas the person should have expertise in..

The current Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules use the term “Qualified Hydrogeologist”. The Rules go on to state that when hydrogeologic studies are required they shall be performed by a qualified hydrogeologist who is a designer or who is working under the supervision of a designer.

The wetlands program has a list of people who are acceptable. Anyone who wants to design is told to send in a few projects which are reviewed by the staff of the Wetlands program and if the work is good their name is added to the list.

The stormwater program did have a definition for designers in their rules, but they deleted it during the last revision. They are continuing to operate as if the definition were still in the rules.

Anne asked what the committee members thought about using this approach for designers of water treatment systems. Gary Adams noted there might be a certification related to a plumbing specialty license that included water treatment systems. John Beauchamp said that he objected at the time the Plumbing Rules added a specialty license for water treatment systems. The proposal was to call the people “water treatment specialists” but the test only covered plumbing issues. The test also had questions that were specific to a brand name technology which seemed inappropriate. Craig asked if John was recommending that there be an experience requirement with a specified number of years and John replied that having a number is better than not. Anne suggested that adding a number makes it equivalent to a licensing program and therefore requires a statutory change. Craig said that did not make sense to him if there is no requirement to apply for a license. Scott Stewart said this seemed to be a pyramid issue to him and that as you get to the smaller population of more difficult situations more regulation of designers is appropriate.

Anne then asked about the general concept of creating a term that created a group defined as “Qualified XXXX.” The group discussed the definition and suggested it should require experience in water chemistry, evaluation and treatment of biologic contamination, technologies used for such treatment, and operation and maintenance of such treatment technology. Gail said don’t use the term specialist. Craig said to use the term designer rather than professional.

Water Supply Rules

Scott gave a short update on the progress of the subcommittee. The issue of deepening existing wells was discussed. This is a minor repair under the Wastewater System and Potable Water Supply Rules and does not require a permit. It is recommended that the water quality be retested after the well is drilled deeper as there may be new veins of water now entering the well. Craig, Rodney Pingree, and Scott suggested that there should be a conditional exemption from the Rules if the water quality is retested and is found to be acceptable. Scott noted that he is working on a well abandonment policy which can include allowing a well to exist for future emergency use provided the location and upkeep of the well is tracked.

Items prioritized for discussion with high, low, and medium ranking

1. Soil identification vs. perc test **medium**
2. Curtain drain with presumption of effectiveness **high**
3. Revisions to desktop hydro chart **medium**
4. Minimum amount of sand under a mound **high**
5. Grandfathered design flow and conversion of use policy **high**
6. Updating of design flow chart **high**

Executive Committee

John Forcier, Steve Revell, Lance Phelps, Phil Dechert, and Roger Thompson
Alternates – Chris Thompson, Bernie Chenette, Spencer Harris, Jeff Williams

Subcommittees

Hydrogeology - Allison Lowry, Craig Heindel, Dave Cotton and Steve Revell.

Training subcommittee - John Forcier, Roger Thompson, Allison Lowry, Dave Cotton, and Barbara Willis.

Drip Disposal – Roger Thompson, Dave Cotton, Steve Revell, Alan Huizenga

Water treatment systems – Gail Center, Jeff Williams, Rodney Pingree, Dave Cotton, Lance Phelps, and Roger Thompson.